

Message Text

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COM/BIC/OED/OBOD/RECOHEN

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R 312104Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS STATE 114772

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: INQUIRY FROM FLORIDA INVESTOR

REF: JIDDA'S T-2953

AS REQUESTED REFERENCED CABLE, COMMERCE CONTACTED KEN LAY, WINTER PARK FLORIDA. LAY, FORMER DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, NOW AFFILIATED WITH FLORIDA GAS COMPANY. LAY EXPLAINED FLORIDA GAS APPROACHED BY SHEARSON HAMMILL & COMPANY WHICH SUGGESTED FLORIDA GAS EXPLORE POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS WITH SAUDI ARABIAN INVESTMENT COMPANY ON OBTAINING NATURAL GAS FOR IMPORT TO U.S. THE INTENT, THEREAFTER, WOULD BE TO GASIFY AND DISTRIBUTE THE PRODUCT THROUGHOUT FLORIDA. LAY'S PRIMARY INTEREST AT THIS POINT IS THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PROPOSAL FROM THE STANDPOINT OF SAUDI ARABIAN FIRM'S LEVEL OF CONTACTS, FINANCIAL MAKE-UP "ETC." COMMERCE ADVISED LAY WTDR LIKELY FORTHCOMING. LAY ADVISED HE ALSO HAS MADE CONTACT WITH WHITE HOUSE STAFF MEMBER REQUESTING INTERCESSION IN GATHERING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FIRM. LAY DISCOURAGED COMMERCE CONTACTING BOGARDUS OF SHEARSON HAMMILL AT THIS TIME. VIEW OF ABOVE, EMBASSY REQUESTED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON FIRM, LEVEL OF CONTACTS AND ANY OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION CONCERNING AHMAD MAGRAHBI

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THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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